

The writer of these lines was born March 12, 1815 on a farm between Garath and wolfrath. Several years after my birth, father bought a farm in Berghausen near Langenfeld between Koeln and Duesseldorf. Here I was raised. When I was seven years old, I was sent to a private Catholic village school. Several years later I was sent to a Protestant school near Manheim, in which I remained until I was fifteen years old. Then father apprenticed me to an owner of a spice company in Deutz opposite Koeln. My work here was partly that of janitor, filing clerk, and bookkeeper.

After about two years, father decided to emigrate to America. This decision he carried out in August, 1832. We landed in New York the beginning of October and from there went to Albany, then through the Erie Canal to Buffalo, intending to cross the lake to Cleveland in order to reach the Ohio from there by canal. We boarded a ship bound for Cleveland, but since winter had already set in, storms compelled us to seek the harbor of Erie. Since the schooner, because of winter weather, would not leave Erie again, we traveled overland to Pittsburgh. The weather was inclement, and mother, compelled to ride because of weakness and old age, suffered much from the cold.

In Pittsburgh we at once boarded a boat for St. Louis. On this part of the journey mother became sick. In Cincinnati, where the boat lay over for several days, father called a doctor aboard, who treated mother, but did not advise against continuing the journey. Between Louisville and Cincinnati mother became worse, and the family left the boat to be able to take better care of her. On the third day mother died and we buried her in the public cemetery there. Several days later the family continued its journey and reached St. Louis in December. From here we journeyed to St. Charles where father rented a house. After the family was settled here, it was left in my care, and father and my older brother left for the upper part of St. Charles County, where he bought out a claimant and settled on this land.

The family consisted of Gottfried, aged 25, Margreth, aged 21, Arnold aged 17, Franz, aged 14, Catharina, aged 12, and Nikolas, aged 10. We busied ourselves clearing the land and after several years had about thirty acres under cultivation. This gave us a meagre living. The journey and the purchase of the land had taken all of father's cash. Soon however, we found ourselves in such circumstances as settlers under similar conditions find themselves. If we could earn a little by working for others, we did so. The oldest brother remained at home until the farm was debt-free and then went into business for himself.

At the age of twenty, father permitted me to work for myself. I cleared some land, hired out for eight dollars one summer, and worked where work was to be found. After about two years an acquaintance and I went to Cincinnati, where I worked almost a year in a silk-dye works and saved about three hundred dollars. While working here I with four other young people went to night school where I learned my first English. Early in winter I invested my three hundred dollars in fresh vegetables, apples, and cider. These I took per steamboat to New Orleans. My venture turned out so well that I returned to Cincinnati with eight hundred dollars. During the winter I continued my studies and in the early spring I invested the remainder of the money in peddler goods and returned to Missouri. Here I remained several months without earning anything.

26. 11. 1871

The following year, now aged 30, I met and married Ida Krag, daughter of Dr. Frederick Krag who had a practice in Warren County. She was 17 years old and had been brought as a four year old child with the Giesener settlers to Warren Co. She had little schooling, but was well trained by her mother, a fine and noble woman. My wife had inherited all the good traits of her mother and was raised under settler's conditions, practical and competent. We began with very little. Our expenses the first year amounted to \$165 of which I had earned \$150 during the year. The following year things went better and the third year I paid the debts incurred at college. I found a little practice and spent part of my time surveying, since I had been chosen as county surveyor. The V.R. Landamt of St. Louis appointed me as U.S. Deputy Surveyor in 1847, and as such I did much surveying. By 1850 my practice had increased considerably and I worked with a restless energy and with extraordinary success.

In this year I founded by myself the yet existant "St. Charles Democrat" which I edited for four years successfully and with some influence. Gustave Bruere became my successor. During this time I was drawn into politics, became a candidate for Senate in 1850 for St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren Counties, but was defeated by my opponent. However, my friends did not lose courage. In 1852 I was elected to the Lower House, where I served St. Charles County two years. Until the outbreak of the war I was busy with my practice, served as City and County Attorney and had my hands quite full. From 1850-1860 I engaged quite a few young people in my office who were seeking to become attorneys or surveyors.

Very early already I advocated a public school in the city of St. Charles and after a long and earnest fight we succeeded in establishing and maintaining a school.

At the outbreak of the war I organized the St. Charles Home Guards and at the time of the capture of Camp Jackson the organization was well under way. We, the Home Guards, soon received Camp Jackson weapons and on the 6th of August we came together 1800 strong as a regiment in Cuttleville. From this Home Guard organization was taken the so-called active militia, which was in the service of the State and commanded by me as major. At the time of muster I was in command as colonel of the 27. Regiment. I saw service practically during the whole war. During that time I was chosen by the Republican Party as candidate for Congress, but was not elected. Toward the end of the war St. Charles, Warren, and Montgomery Counties elected me as delegate to the State Convention which adopted the present constitution of the state. I was chairman of the convention and as such signed on January 11, 1865 the Ordinance of Emancipation which freed the slaves of Missouri. While I was chairman of the convention President Lincoln appointed me judge of the U.S. Court for western Missouri, which office I now hold.

Six children were born to us, of which the third, Frank, died in his fifth year and Walter the youngest in his third year. Laura, now Mrs. Louis Schmidt, was born December 11, 1845, Alfred March 18, 1847, Hilda December 2, 1852, and Alma, now Mrs. Van Milbanks, May 15, 1854. ~~Alfred was born between Franklin and Hilda, and Walter March 18, 1853.~~ 1863, nine years after Alma. Franklin was born August 17, 1849.

Walter's death grieved Mamma until her own death. She died in her 43 year. Born in Bonnlund, South Germany, October 5, 1827, she was six years old when her parents emigrated. Mamma was raised in her parental home with three ~~sisters and one brother.~~ sisters and one brother. The oldest sister was sickly and weak and married Gustave Banz. Both died

a few years after their marriage leaving no children. Emma married August Kuntze, had two children, who live with the mother in Hanover, Germany. August Kuntze died in Pinckney, Warren County, at his home. Laura married Karl Kuntze, brother of August, had three children, and is now living in Hanover, Germany. Fritz Krug died in the 21 year after father and mother died. Dr. Krug was found lying near his buggy, dead. He probably died from a stroke. The remains of Dr. Krug, Mrs. Krug, Bertha, and Fritz Krug rest in my burial lot in St. Charles beside Mamma. I had their remains taken from the Krug burial place in Warren County and placed in my burial place. After living five years in Missouri I made an effort to find the remains of mother, but was unsuccessful since the city of Louisville had spread out over the burial place and no one was able to tell what had become of the remains. My father died in 1863. He was born in Kirchwerth by Achen of the province of Rhine in 1784, of Huguenot parents who had emigrated during the French Revolution. He was the youngest of five brothers who were all lost in the Napoleonic Wars. Two died on the battlefield. The other two were captured from the fleet by the English and probably sent to the West Indies. Till now nothing has been heard from them. Father Franz Krekel escaped military service by fleeing to the left Rhine bank, came to Garath where he married mother, Catharina Pluemacher of Berghausen. Of this Pluemacher family two girls, 40 to 45 years old, are still living. I visited them on my trip through Germany in 1872, but found no other relatives of father or mother. Mamma's mother, Thekla nee Entenstein, also has a brother, Raymond Entenstein, living at Frankfort, am Main. Him I also visited in 1872 and sought further information about the family, but he knew little about it.

Mamma was raised amid many hardships. Early, barely 10 years old, she had to do most of the house work, since her mother was impractical and her older sister sickly. Her necessary schooling she received from two Protestant pastors, the one orthodox, and the other a free-thinker. Her mother, Thekla Krug, sided with the latter and so she was raised without religion. Through her mother she learned the German language and was fairly well acquainted with German literature when we married. After our marriage she took music lessons and learned to play piano well. She encouraged our children to study music besides their other studies. Mamma was exceptionally industrious and known as a fine housekeeper. She always found time to help the suffering and the sick. But this was not her only virtue. She was known as a peacemaker and often was instrumental in settling family quarrels and other troubles. She never permitted anyone in her home to speak disparagingly of others, and if she knew of no other way to prevent it, she simply forbade the visit. Her love for her children never let her rest. Day and night she was their guardian angel and never let them out of sight or mind. Her last words were, "O, I would like to remain with you, but I cannot." She was inclined to be melancholy, and always believed and said that she was not fulfilling her sphere in life. When we were still young she constantly kept me from seeking any honors and only in later years did she take part in my public efforts. By nature she was endowed with a taste for beauty and art. She dressed simply but tastefully, without any frills. Her simplicity and personality made her attractive. She was an interesting entertainer and through her dignity and politeness attracted many. She was well enough read to make herself entertaining and understood well how to make the best use of her knowledge. Her sense of beauty she used to make her home as well as the surroundings attractive. Flower culture was her principal pastime and she became quite a landscape gardener. House and yard were proof of that. The ideas carried out in the yard and garden were the result of her work. She was just as skillful in doing fancy work. She took part in every public patriotic affair and used this wider sphere during the Civil War. She never complained

that during four long years she had to take care of the household alone and support it, but encouraged me in my efforts and consented that Alfred in his fifteenth year go to war. She was brave and determined, and even in seeming danger never lost her clear vision. She loved her old fatherland, but none the less her new. Her trip with the oldest child, Laura, to Germany acquainted her with German life and conditions in 1859 and so her love was kept alive and strengthened. She was much interested in the German-Austrian and especially in the German-French War, Her interest and work in an organization in support of the latter war aggravated her liver trouble so that she finally succumbed. So far her memory has not been forgotten. She still lives with us in lively memory after four years. Therefore the writing of these lines.